

Chris: Welcome and thank you for joining today's conference, FY2021 YHDP NOFO Webinar. Before we begin, please ensure you have opened the Zoom Chat Panel by using the associated icon located at the bottom of your screen, and please note that all audio connections are muted for the duration of the call to minimize background noise. You may submit written questions throughout the presentation, and these will be addressed during the Q&A. To submit a written question, select host and the panelists from the dropdown menu in the Chat Panel, enter your question in the message box provided and send. If you require technical assistance, please send a chat to Event Services. With that, I'll turn the conference over to Nili Soni, Division Director, State Assistance Division. Please go ahead.

Nili Soni: Thank you Chris. Good morning. Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for joining to this Round 6, the Sixth Session of our NOFO YHDP, Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program. We are really excited to present today. Today is the first webinar. We will be having a similar webinar tomorrow, not very similar, but actually more focused on the Tribes. Next slide.

So in today's webinar, we will be going over the background in YHDP. We will definitely have opening remarks, changes for Round 6 YHDP, eligibility, scoring and how do you apply. Next slide.

Just some housekeeping that I want to share with everyone. This is a 90 minute webinar, includes time for questions. As Chris says, the participants are going to be muted. To ask any questions, please use the Chat Feature. We will be answering questions live and then also recordings, transcripts and chat log will be posted HUD.gov. As I referenced earlier, there is going to be a webinar tomorrow focusing specifically on the addition of Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, as eligible YHDP applicants. So tomorrow's webinar is going to be from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Eastern Time. Next slide.

And I am really honored here to introduce you to our Deputy Assistant Secretary Jemine Bryon.

Jemine Bryon: Well, hi everyone. Welcome. Thank you so much for joining this webinar today. It's a pleasure to be with you on to discuss this YHDP funding opportunity. I'm really, really proud of the fact that this is our sixth round, our sixth year of YHDP funding. Obviously, Congress continues to recognize this important work communities are doing across the country to end youth homelessness with more rounds of funding. And we are really, really grateful to continue in partnership on this effort.

So YHDP has direct and measurable impacts on youth homelessness in the communities that have been awarded funding thus far, but as a program, YHDP has also impacted federal and local policy and grant making. We in the Federal Government look to youth action boards as a model of what it means to share power and leadership with those most impacted by our systems. We look to the system modeling work and the intentional planning and coalition building at the

local level, as an example of silo busting. We know that to prevent and end homelessness, we must work across multiple systems and YHDP communities are showing us how we continue to look to YHDP to lead the way.

Through this NOFO, for the first time, our Tribal Partners are eligible applicants for this funding. We are very excited about providing this opportunity for youth in Tribal Communities. I ask that CoCs continue to reach out to Tribes for partnerships so that the Tribes and TDHEs can potentially apply for YHDP projects. As Nili said, a webinar is going to be held tomorrow to provide more information about the YHDP NOFO for Tribes and Tribal Organizations. So I really, really encourage you all to join that webinar as well.

You can tell that I and the entire YHDP team are so passionate about this program. I look forward to working with the next round of awarded communities. We know that successful applicants get started early. Partner with youth in drafting their applications, and please take full advantage of the Ending youth Homelessness resources that are available on the HUD Exchange. I really, really wish best of luck to all of you in your application, and thank you for your enduring commitment to making homelessness rare, brief and non-reoccurring for everyone in our country, but most especially for our youth. So enjoy the webinar and I look forward to meeting you. Nili, I'm turning it back over to you. Thanks everyone.

Nili Soni:

Thank you, Jemine. Thank you. We are definitely very excited. To the next slide please. So today you will be hearing from me, Jemine, Ebony Rankin, Sidhartha Nilakanta and Caroline Crouse. These are your speakers for today, and we will also be supported by additional YHDP team members. Juanita Perry, Anita Crews, April Mitchell, Rachel Duplessis, Tre Lee, Regina Lee, Juanita ... Sorry, Jeanine Beasley, Erin Colick and Aimee Harmon Darrow. This is a team effort, so team members will be also responding to your questions. I am going to be turning over to Ebony and next slide please.

Ebony Rankin:

Thank you Nili. So on this slide you see here, is a visual representation of all the YHDP Communities we've awarded to date. So we've awarded 77 communities so far, YHDP Communities so far. We started off with 10 in 2016, 11 in 2017, 23 in 2018, and then the last announcement for FY 19 and FY 20 was 33 communities. So this map is just a visual representation of where all of our YHDP Communities are so far. Next slide.

And so the purpose of this, the Round 6 YHDP NOFO is, we're supporting up to 25 communities in development and implementation of a coordinated community approach to prevent and end youth homelessness. And just to remind everyone, the population that we serve under our YHDP NOFOs are youth experience in homelessness, which include unaccompanied and pregnant or parenting youth, and is where no member of the household is older than 24. Okay, next slide.

And so, what does YHDP offers? How does it help the community? First and foremost, we offer funding. So this round, \$72 million minimum of \$1 million for a community and maximum of up to \$15 million. We offer innovation. Projects in YHDP allow to request special activities in order to operate new and innovative projects. And when you read the NOFO, you want to look at Appendix A for more information and examples of those special activities that we allow under YHDP.

We offer collaboration. Throughout this entire process from application to your Coordinated Community Plan to your project application, we require applicants and recipients of YHDP to work with community stakeholders and youth with lived experience to be part of their team. And not only before applying, but also after when they actually receive fund. We require collaboration throughout this entire process. And then four, we offer technical assistance. Extensive 101, calls, meetings with our TA providers. You'll be assigned a TA provider and also meeting with other communities who've done this before. Communities who are five, six years in, which have been helpful to learn from those who have had YHDP funds in the past. So those are the four main things that we offer. We also have your assigned HUD desk officer that also help with any questions you may have. Next slide.

And as I said before, for this NOFO, \$72 million to up to 25 communities. We are offering a priority rural bonus for rural populations up to eight locations. We'll offer rural bonus and we could pick up to eight rural communities. Maximum award is 15 million and minimum you could receive is a million depend on several factors that we lay out in the NOFO. And then you can use that funding for any project that's eligible under CoC regulations. We have planning, different housing in service projects, but as a reminder, please look at Appendix A in the NOFO. That'll tell you more about any other special activities that you would be able to request under the YHDP Project. Next slide.

And to give you a general timeline of the YHDP process. So from now until the summer of this year, for those who are applying, you're working with other community partners, with your CoC to respond to the NOFO. And then soon after the NOFO closes, we will announce the communities that are being awarded for funding. And after that announcement, we immediately start with TA for the communities, and we will help provide more information on the Coordinated Community Plan.

That's when our communities will establish their planning team, and including their youth with lived experience, CoC ESG recipients, all their stakeholders to come up with their Coordinated Community Plan when they'll have six months to do so. Information on a Coordinated Community Plan is in Appendix B on the NOFO. So if you have any questions on how that process works and what needs to be in the plan, you can definitely look in Appendix B for that, because it's pretty extensive. And the six months go by really quickly to try to get that plan together. So that's around the Fall/Spring, and it starts right after we announce all our communities.

And once the Coordinated Community Plans are in, communities will start working on their project applications and that'll be around the Spring and Summer. Now, keep in mind, you will have a Planning Grant that will already be in funds, that'll be available to you to help you with the Coordinated Community Plan, but your actual projects will start ... You will start applying for those after your CCP is submitted. So that's around Spring/Summer of 2023. That kind of gives you an example of where things fall, because we understand that there are other NOFOs that are out there that other communities are applying for, working towards. So that's just a general overview of YHDP process. Next slide. And now, I'll hand it over to Caroline Crouse to talk more about the NOFO.

Caroline Crouse:

Thanks Ebony. So we have some major changes for the YHDP NOFO of FY 2021. The biggest change that we're all very excited about is that Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities are eligible applicants for YHDP funding as well as to possibly become a YHDP community. As Nili and Jemine mentioned earlier, we are going to have a webinar specifically focused on integrating Tribes and TDHEs into the YHDP process. That's tomorrow, March 31st which is a Thursday at 3:00 PM Eastern. The link for that is on the HUD.gov YHDP page, and we will show you that again at the end of the slides. But I would really encourage, if you have questions about integrating Tribes or TDHEs into your YHDP application or into the YHDP process, please plan on attending that. If you're not able to attend, we totally understand. Just like this webinar, it will be recorded and posted on the HUD.gov webpage as well after, when we're able to, hopefully within a few days.

So that's probably the biggest change. We have a few changes that we did just generally for the clarifying some of the formula information in term ... We took out the PIT Count because of the waiver for unsheltered PIT Counts in 2021. The data weren't as good or weren't as thorough, and so we wanted to take that out to make sure that we weren't penalizing anyone. We have a method to break ties, if there are ties in rating factors. We updated the webinar ... Sorry, we updated the rating criteria to emphasize youth voice and leadership, as well as to emphasize integrating additional partners, including HIV and AIDS community organization, or HIV and AIDS serving community organizations, as well as LGBTQ specifics service organizations. And then we also have changed a little bit of the project timeline. The YHDP projects are initially a two year timeline, and what we've seen from other projects is that it takes a little while to ramp up and get that project implemented. So we are allowing for an initial grant term of 30 months. Next slide please.

So the Ranking and Funding process is the same as last year's. There are five rating criteria categories in the NOFO that will ask you to respond to, getting together a lot of community members, including a youth action board. So when we have those responses in, we will go through and we'll rank all the applications based on those rating factors and we will select communities. The next part of the NOFO determination is how much money each community gets. So the first part is figuring out which community is what ranked order you're going to be in. And the next is determining the funding.

So the funding process is outlined in Section II.C at the YHDP NOFO. I would encourage everyone to take a look and read it. I'm not going to try to explain it on a webinar, because it is a little complex, but essentially what we're doing is we take the first 16 highest scoring applications and we put them through the formula that's outlined in the NOFO. And if there's sufficient funding remaining, after those 16 communities are funded with the formula, then we will rerun the funding formula with an additional community. We'll keep doing that. It's an iterative process until we don't have sufficient funds to cover all of the communities or until 25 communities are selected, whichever one happens first. Next slide please.

So once again, we do have similar to the FY 2020 funding availability. We have a bonus for rural communities. So if you are designated as a rural community, which you will need to do in your application, say that you're applying as a rural community, you will get an extra 10 bonus point. The first ... Sorry, it's a little complicated, but the first highest, the top eight highest ranking rural communities will receive an additional 10 points. And so, that does increase the likelihood that more rural communities will be funded. I do want to emphasize it's just for those top eight, and that is following the statutory language we got from Congress, that's attached to this funding.

So how do you know if you're a rural community? There are two ways that you can be considered a rural community. One, if the geographic area for which you're applying for, has more people residing in rural areas rather than suburban or urban areas. Or two, this is in second bullet point, which is just in general, a state that has a large amount of land under a federal jurisdiction and it has a low population density. For the first bullet, I do want to mention that this is the same definition we've used in previous rounds. We are updating all of our tools, including the list of rural CoCs and the rural calculator to indicate if you're applying for less than the total area of your CoC, if you can apply as rural, those will be posted to the website soon. We are just making sure that the data are all in line and it'll be a reliable tool. Next slide, please.

So here the rating criteria. Again, you will see that these are the same rating criteria factors that we had in the previous NOFOs. There are a couple extra questions. We've moved things around a little bit to make sure that the scoring is reflective of where we are looking to find the best communities. So you'll see the highest category for scoring points is the Youth Collaboration section. So I really want to encourage everyone to get out there and make sure if you don't have a YAB, get forming a YAB. And if you do have a YAB, make sure you get them integrated into the application process as soon as possible. Having real and authentic youth engagement is going to be a critical way for you to be a funded community. Next slide please. And with this, I'm going to turn it over to Sid to talk about applicant eligibility.

Sidhartha Nilak...:

Hi. Thank you, Caroline. So let me go over Applicant Eligibility. CoCs, who are designated as Collaborative Applicants that have registered during the FY 22 CoC Program Registration Process, so the program registration that's going on

right now, may apply for funding under this NOFO for, any community located within a CoC geographic area and multiple communities located within its CoC's geographic area. But only one application per CoC will be selected for funding. So if you have multiple applications coming out of one COC, we are only going to award one of those, if both meet the requirements. And as I mentioned, the CoC registration process is going on right now and that closes on April 7th. So please, have your CoC registered on by that deadline. Next slide, please.

How to apply. So who? You have to be a Continuum of Care Collaborative Applicant. No other NT can apply. You have to be a Collaborative Applicant for a Continuum of Quick Care. The deadline is June 28th, 2022. So that is about ... Today is the 30th, so we're a little less than three months away. So you have a lot of time. And you are to submit your application on grants.gov. If you go directly to grants.gov, you can type in YHDP in the search bar and in the first result, it will give you the YHDP application, or you can go to HUD.gov and find the YHDP page, and that will also take you directly to the specific grants.gov page for YHDP. So it's very easy to find, just make sure that you are looking up YHDP on grants.gov. Next screen, please.

All right. Appendix A, Project Selection Process. So Appendix A outlines requirements for project awarded after YHDP community selection. So really this Appendix is important for communities that have been selected for award. Appendix A includes a few things that are very important to project applications. One of them is the list of special YHDP Activities that we are allowing in the program. Project thresholds that need to be passed to have a project that can be funded and environmental requirements for projects. So this is not something to worry about while you are applying for YHDP funding, but if you are approved for funding, Appendix A is very important in knowing what you are allowed to apply for in your project, what kind of special activities are there to help you service many youth as possible. Next screen, please.

Appendix B is your Coordinated Community Plan. This goes over all the required components of the Coordinated Community Plan, also shorthand, we call that the CCP. The Coordinated Community Plan is going to require things such as, what is your community need? Who are the partners involved in your community plan? What are the required elements in this plan that is written out in Appendix B? You're going to need certain signatures, with signatures, we mean people signing off on your plan that approve the plan that you've written up. And who are the principal actors in your plan? So like who are the leads that are going to help run some of these programs and projects that you are proposing for your Coordinated Community Plan.

Again, this Appendix B is applicable once you have been awarded funds. So once you've been awarded funds, we require a Coordinated Community Plan be completed within I believe, six months. I might be wrong, but I believe it's six months to have that plan completed and submitted to us to review. There was a question about, are we able to submit a planning application before the Coordinated Community Plan? And that is you can. That is correct. You can

submit a planning application prior to a Coordinated Community Plan being submitted, but the rest of your project applications have to wait until your Coordinated Community Plan is submitted. But again, this process, Coordinated Community Plan, known as the CCP is for when you have been awarded funds under the YHDP Program. So next slide please.

All right. Agency Contacts. This is important in terms, if you have questions about applying under on this NOFO, if you have questions about the program itself. We are available at all times. We ask that you send all questions to the Youth Demo Mailbox. So it's youthdemo@hud.gov. Please note, we cannot assist you all in preparing your applications, but for questions regarding specific program requirements for this NOFO, please ask us. So we will do our best to help you, but we cannot assist you in preparing your application, unless you are having issues, unless you're having like technical issues with grants.gov, then we'll try to figure out ways to help you by connecting with the developers for the program. Next slide, please.

In additional information, and this has been repeated at least two or three times, so I'll repeat it once more. There's going to be a webinar specifically for Tribes. That will be held on Thursday, March 31st from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Eastern standard time. The link is going to be available on the HUD.gov YHDP site. Additional tools forthcoming, we'll have more tools on rural resources, FAQs, and then previous competition information. So previous applications that were submitted, maybe insights from previous communities who have submitted and been awarded funds. Next slide please.

And then, here are some resources. We have our YHDP website on the HUD.gov website. If people don't know, a lot of our stuff is being migrated from the HUD Exchange to HUD.gov. So please go to the HUD.gov website to look for a lot of our YHDP programming information. Our technical assistance website is still on the HUD Exchange, and then our CoC Analysis Tool for Race and Ethnicity can also be found in the HUD Exchange. So make sure to get those links saved, and you can find a lot of your information on those websites. Next slide please.

So that is our webinar. Those are our slides. We are now open for questions, and I know you all must have lots of questions, because I think I went through that very fast. So please put your questions in the chat and we will try to answer as many as we can. All right, thank you.

Nili Soni:

Thank you, Sid. So we do have several questions and as I said, please continue to put in your questions. We will be answering questions now. So there was a question about, "Do we anticipate any additional rounds of YHDP funds or should we plan that this will be a final round?"

I am really excited to share that Congress has awarded another round of YHDP funding. So there is going to be FY 2022 funding, which is going to be for 72 million for up to 25 communities, with a priority for eight communities to be with a substantial rural population. In addition, Congress has also given 25

million for Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants. So really excited to share that, some more information to be coming in the future about the NOFO. There is another question that has come is about age. "Can you serve minors with YHDP funding?" And I'm going to give it to Ebony.

Ebony Rankin: Yes. So as I put in a chat that you can serve minors, you can serve youth under 18. However, there's a lot of consideration that has to go into that, whether it is your local laws or what type of project you are trying to serve minors. And so, we don't limit it to folks that are 18 and over, but once a community decides they do want to serve minors, we work with them. They work with the TA Providers to find out how best do that, the appropriate project and that sort of thing. So it is not restricted to youth that are 18 to 24. It's youth 24 and under.

Nili Soni: Thanks Ebony. There's a question about, if previous applicants who did not just see funding in previous round and have feedback our scores from previous applications, can they apply again? I'm going to turn that question Caroline to you, to respond.

Caroline Crouse: Sure, yeah. We really encourage people that have applied previously for YHDP to reapply for this round of funding. Like we said, a lot of the rating factors are very similar. So you should be able to dust off your old application and update it with some of the new work you've been doing over the past year. We have sent out debriefing documents every year of the competition. And historically, what we've also done is put a blank debriefing document. The debriefing document has the information that is specific to CoCs, but then general feedback. And so we're planning on putting a blank debriefing document on the HUD.gov website, so other people can look at kind of what the reviewers have thought of previous applications and things to concentrate on. It won't be a one for one obviously, because there aren't new rating factors, but it's a good idea to kind of take a look at that and get a general idea.

We did finish sending out the debriefing documents for the Round 4, 5 Competition. Most of them went out on Friday, a few you went out on Monday and Tuesday. So if you did not receive that, it probably went to whoever applied for the application, through grants.gov last year. Sometimes that's not the same people that are asking for the debrief this year. So if you're having trouble finding it, maybe ask someone, whoever applied for it last year. And if that doesn't work, feel free to email us at youthdemo@HUD.gov and we can get that out to you.

Nili Soni: Yeah. Thanks Caroline. There is a question about need assessment and when should this be done? Should it be done during the planning stages? Oh sorry. Giving it back to you, Caroline.

Caroline Crouse: So, we do ask that there would be a need assessment throughout the Coordinated Community Plan Assessment process. A lot of communities have already done a needs assessment or an initial needs assessment. So if it's asking for that in the rating factors, you should be talking about what you've already

done. But just know that, for the Coordinated Community Plan, we will be asking you to really review the needs of youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in your community. So it's something that you'll delve deeper into during the planning.

Nili Soni: Thank you. This is the question about if the POC is awarded after the end of the grant period. Can you actually speak to possible renewals of those grants? So I will give it again to Sid and Caroline, actually on this question.

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So sorry. Sid, please follow up with anything I might miss. So YHDP Grants for the most part are renewable under the CoC competition, as long as they're eligible to be renewed. What that means is, that Planning Grants that you might apply for, those are nonrenewable grants. So those do not get renewed as well as any hard costs. So for acquisition, rehabilitation, construction, those costs would not be renewable either, but otherwise they are renewed in future CoC competitions. Just as a reminder, YHDP Grants are two-year grants. So they would be renewed on an annual basis under the CoC competition.

Nili Soni: Yep. Thank you. There's some questions related to YAB, Youth Advisory Board. There's a question about the minimum requirements of number of YAB members. Compensation is another question. And I think there was another question about YAB. Oh, are participants who are on youth board also eligible to receive services under these awards? Ebony, I am going to give it to you.

Ebony Rankin: [crosstalk 00:33:34]. No problem, and thanks Amy for answering the number of youth. So the YAB needs to have at least three youth that had a lived experience. And yes, they could be served if they're eligible. So they still have to be eligible youth. They could be served under YHDP program. And what was the third question?

Nili Soni: The third question was about, "Can youth who participate in YAB also be eligible to receive services under the award?"

Ebony Rankin: Right. So yeah, they can receive services because they just have to be eligible based on our criteria that we put in a NOFO, in Appendix A. So being on a YAB does not exclude them from being able to be served under YHPD. I mean, yeah YHPD.

Nili Soni: Yeah. Ebony, while you're on, there's a question about waivers. "Are previous waivers, the prior waivers that communities have applied, are they on the website?" Is there somewhere that they can look for those waivers?

Ebony Rankin: We don't have all the waivers on the website, I believe, but like I mentioned before, if you look on Appendix A, that gives you actually a better example of everything that you could ... When you're thinking about your projects, activities that you could do. So definitely, I encourage everyone please read through

Appendix A carefully, because that'll give you a better example of the things that we have allowed in the past, and we may allow again.

Nili Soni: Thanks, Ebony. Yeah, that's a very good point. So Appendix A really highlights the special activities that are being allowed under YHDP. Appendix B really focuses on the CCP, the Coordinated Community Plan. So please pay attention to those two, when you are trying to look for additional special activities of CCP.

Question about CoC. "Can two CoCs submit a joint application to serve both communities?" This is to Caroline.

Caroline Crouse: So unfortunately, no. The application is just for the one CoC. It needs to be submitted by the Collaborative Applicant or the CoC for which that entity is a Collaborative Applicant. If you do have a cooperative agreement or agreements or work together with another CoC that's in the same area as you, it might be a great idea for you to work together, to apply for the program. And then, you can always do collaboration across those two CoCs, but we can only award the funds to a single CoC.

Nili Soni: Yeah. The next question is about, "For this NOFO, should the grants start by October 2023? And it is when new grants or continuation? So we have to obligate all the funds of September 30th. So yes, you can. Most projects will be starting around October 2023.

There is a question about CCP and Planning Grants. "So after the community is awarded or the award's announced, can a community apply for Planning Grants before they start working on the CCP?" So this is a question to, again, Caroline.

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So our plan is that we are going to have Planning Grants available for her application by selected communities, right, when we announced the communities. So with the Round 4, 5 communities, we did what we called the lightning round of Planning Grants. It requires everyone to move really quickly, honestly, but we did get, I think about 16 of the 33 communities received Planning Grants in that time. And it's been a really great, I think, experience for them after the initial push of trying to get the application in quickly. But they were able to start paying their Youth Action Boards and pay for other planning activities right away, instead of having to wait a little bit. So we're planning on doing something very similar this round.

Nili Soni: Okay. Let's see what questions do we have? Okay. So this question came in regarding the NOFO application process. So someone asked, "We have looked through the feedback from reviewers from the last funding process. The class of feedback was not received until after the NOFO was released for this round of funding. What considerations will HUD have for applications that detail plans or changes that are related to the feedback information, but have not been implemented at this time?" I am going to turn it over to Caroline to respond.

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So as I mentioned, we did release all of those debriefing materials, most of them on Friday, but a few Monday and Tuesday. We do know they were a little delayed and we apologize for that, but we hope that you had kept working on all of the great work that you had been doing with youth in your community, prior to that. And you'll see that a lot of those questions were similar to previous years and we do just expect forward movement. So there isn't special consideration about whether you're in progress or you're planning versus you've implemented. We do ask that you continue to have those plans and keep moving with that work.

Nili Soni: Thank you. "So if you are part of the CoC, does that mean that you are a Collaborative Applicant? So how do you find out that you are a designated Collaborative Applicant?" Ebony, I'm going to turn it over to you.

Ebony Rankin: So in the chat, I sent out a link and I'll send it again to our HUD Exchange Page or CoC Page. And what you want to do is go to the right of that page and there's a link that says, Contact The CoC. And we list the CoCs by state and you can actually search to see your Coc and it actually has a Collaborative Applicant name is up there. If you still don't know who your Collaborative Applicant is, just send an email to youthdemo@HUD.gov and we can let you know who the Collaborative Applicant is and kind of get you in touch with POC for that. So yeah, definitely reach out. If you're not the Collaborative Applicant, reach out to your CoC's Collaborative Applicant and see if they're going to apply this year.

Nili Soni: Yep. Thanks Ebony. "Can we use the grant money to pay for staff to help execute the project?" Caroline, I'm turning over to you.

Caroline Crouse: Yep, you definitely can. As long as the funds are supporting staff that are helping to implement those projects. And keep in mind, there's different ways that you're implementing the project. So if you have a Planning Grant that would be creating a youth system and a lot of work goes into creating that youth system from organizational members to Youth Action Board members and other planning costs. Whereas with a housing grant, for example, you could pay for staff for the planning administration and other required things that need to be done with that grant. So it definitely can cover staff. You just need to make sure you're covering them under an eligible cost for the grant type.

Nili Soni: Okay. There's a question about, "How many CoCs applied last year?" I believe 97 communities had applied last year and we awarded 33 communities last year.

There's a question about match. "What is the match requirement for this NOFO?" Caroline, I'm going to turn it over to you.

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So first, I want to specify under this NOFO there is no match requirement to apply as a YHDP community. There is a match requirement that does apply to YHDP projects, which are developed after a selected community creates and has a Coordinated Community Plan approved. So for those YHDP projects, there is a

25% match requirement that applies to CoC projects as well. I will note that YHDP projects can request an exception of that match requirement. And if it's granted, then they don't have to reach that match requirement.

Nili Soni:

Yep. So there is a question about, "Can you who have lived experience at any point in their lifetime, for example, when living with parents or another caregiver as a child, can that be counted as an experience?" The answer is yes for YAB members. Youth who have lived experience at any time in their life, is a valuable experience that they can bring to the youth, sorry to YHDP. If they are being served under YHDP, they have to be eligible.

This is a question for Sid. Sid, can you talk through a little bit about what comes after CCP? When does the project application really start?

Sidhartha Nilak...:

Yes, just make sure everything is on. Okay. Prior to the CCP, you actually have the opportunity to apply for a planning project. So if you are awarded funds, you can apply for a planning project for your community, while at the same time you are putting together your Coordinated Community Plan. Once a Coordinated Community Plan is completed and it is approved, you can then start applying for your projects, not for your non planning projects. And so back in range, the component times range from PH-PSH, RH to SSO projects, HMIS, the whole gamut of component types we have. You would create your projects, submit them into e-snaps. We have a very specific youth YHP application in e-snaps to apply for. And then once that is submitted, we go through the full e-snaps review process.

So we review it, assess it, place any issues and conditions on, where the project needs to be updated, and eventually we get to the point of grant agreement. Hopefully we get through that within like one or two months. We're able to get that stuff done quickly, and then you're able to get to grant agreement and put your project into action. So we try to move these projects quickly, as quickly as possible, but it's a pretty quick process once the CCPs are submitted. We open up e-snaps to you all to start submitting projects.

Nili Soni:

Thanks Sid. A similar question ... Not a similar question, but on planning and projects, "Where does the funds come out from? Is it from the total YHDP grant that is awarded for both planning and the list of project?"

Sidhartha Nilak...:

Yeah. So the planning funds will come out of the total amount that was awarded to you all. So in the past, people have applied for multiple planning projects. For some, that is very helpful in terms of getting kind of a path set forward for them. But also because planning projects are non-renewable, once you use the money for the planning project, that money is gone. It can't be reused for other YHDP projects. So if your plan is to just do one planning project, you'll have a little bit more money left over, to potentially put into projects that can be renewed into the CoC program, but that is correct. If you apply for a planning project, does get taken out of your overall award amount.

Nili Soni: Thank you. There's a question about Tribe. "Can a tribe be funded as part of the state, even if the state was funded last year?" Oh, I'm going to turn it over to Caroline. Sorry.

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So there are some ways that a Tribe ... So if a Tribal Area was ... Sorry, if a state was awarded in a previous YHDP round, and then say, if it was a statewide CoC added new geography through a partnership with the Tribes through the registration process, that new area that was added to the CoC would be able to be eligible to be a new YHDP community. The reason is that we've always allowed for CoC communities or sorry, YHDP communities to cover a whole CoC or part of a CoC. So because that CoC now has new geography associated with it, it would be eligible as a new YHDP community. I'm going to, once again, flag the YHDP information for Tribes webinar tomorrow. I'm going to put the link in the chat again. So we're going to cover all of those issues really in depth tomorrow. So we'd really encourage people to sign on for that.

Nili Soni: Caroline, while you are on there's again, a question about match? "So could you give additional information about what it means by not requiring to meet the 25 person match?"

Caroline Crouse: Sure. So what we've seen is that there are some communities in which the community is really looking at youth homelessness through a broad lens, which is what we encourage through YHDP. So there have been some communities that for example, have been using a lot of their funding, not YHDP funding, but other funding that would've been used for a match, to use for projects that wouldn't necessarily be eligible for YHDP funding. So for example, having a large amount of their state funds be dedicated to doubled up youth, who would necessarily qualify under the HUD homeless definition. We've had communities that have applied for and received an exception to the match requirement, because they can show that they've maximized their funding to help youth at risk of, or experiencing homelessness.

So that's kind of what we're looking for. The exception is not just a broad exception, that if you feel like you don't want to ask people, organizations in your community for funding, or we've had people that have said, "We want to save our asks for future funding opportunities instead of for the YHDP funding or for YHDP planning. And that's not one that we would consider a grouping. That exception, it really needs to be showing that you've maximized the funding for youth homelessness in your community.

Nili Soni: Thank you, Caroline. There's a question related to e-snaps. Sid, I'm going to be turning it over to you. It is about, "The process for YHDP project funds, are they similar to the CoC competition process. That is the project applications are compiled at the CoC level and then submitted together to HUD."

Sidhartha Nilak...: Yes, they are. That is a pretty similar process. I know Amy also gave an answer in the chat that communities usually do like an RFP process. One thing that is important to note is, in the Coordinated Community Plan, we do ask for a list of

post projects and we actually usually ask for pretty details as like who would be running them? What type of project it is? And so you kind of have an idea prior to what those projects are. So some will push out the RFP and have a very centralized process. And sometimes it can be a little bit more decentralized, where you have kind of individuals putting it in, but it's tracked by the CoC, by the Collaborative Applicant. But most of the time, it's done essentially like how it's done in the CoC program.

Nili Soni: Sid just again, on the project application, can you actually share, what kind of projects that communities can apply for [crosstalk 00:51:54] ?

Sidhartha Nilak...: Yes. So we have, the component types that are available for everyone is, you can apply for a PH-PSH, a PH RRH, an SSO coordinated entry, SSO non coordinated entry. So those are like the old SSO outreach, classic outreach programs that CoC used to fund. You can do transitional housing, the Joint Projects, HMIS. Am I missing anything? I believe that's everything. And then we have the ability to do Host Homes in the program. And then we do this as something new in our program this year, that listing of special activities, special YHDP activities. We've given the opportunity for people to apply for innovative project activities. So that could lead to a component type you're thinking of, or just an innovative strategy in combating youth homelessness in your project. And so that's something you can apply for. And we would then review as reviewers in YHDP to see if it's something that can be eligible for funding in the program.

So we have those, the bread and butter component types we have. And then we have the newer ones, the Host Homes and the ability to push innovative activities, if you feel like you have something that might go beyond what we have, what are the basics in the application.

Nili Soni: Thanks Sid. I'm going to turn it over to Ebony. Ebony, could you actually talk through the timeframe again about the award announcements to CCPs and the project application?

Ebony Rankin: Yes. So right now, we are in the application phase. And I think Sid pointed out, when he did his portion, that the applications are due June 28th, so a little less than three months. Right after that June 28th timeline, we will start reviewing applications. And shortly thereafter, we will announce the communities for Round 6. Like I said, that's still the summer of this year. And right after we announce, communities are often running, doing their CCPs and they get six months and they can ask for an extension. We have that information in Appendix B about CCPs in the NOFO, but that's around between the Fall and Spring of 2023. You'll be working on your CCPs, those communities who are actually selected. And then after your CCP is approved, then you start working on your project applications.

So that Spring/Summer 2023 is when you start putting in your project applications. And I know there was a question about the timeline, as far as your

Planning Grant versus your project applications. You can submit your Planning Grant while you are working on your CCP. And that's because we recognize that there are going to be ... You need resources to help you collaborate with other stakeholders in your community. So you would be able to apply for at least your Planning Grant while you're working on your CCP. You don't have to, but you can. Your Planning Grant funds do come out of your YHDP funds. So if you're awarded a million dollars, and you're asking for 100,000 in Planning Grants, that means you only have 900,000 left. I think that's how we're doing it right now, 900,000 left for your project application. So that's something to keep in mind when you're asking for Planning Grant funds.

So you're looking at, like I said, you're looking at Spring/Summer of next year when you're actually inputting your project applications. Their projects are for 24 months, two years. They can go longer, because there's some projects that take time to ramp up. I think Caroline mentioned that. So in general, they're 24 months, could be 30 months, up to 30 months. And at that point, they will be eligible to renew under whatever the next CoC, under the CoC competition. So we'll talk about all that as well.

Nili Soni: Thanks Ebony. So the Planning Grants are non-renewable and you can apply up to 10% of the total award amount. So that is really important to know. And project applications that you will be applying for are renewable. So after the two years or the timeframes up to 30 months, those aren't going to be renewed under the CoC. [crosstalk 00:57:08]

Ebony Rankin: Nili, I think Jennifer asked a question about, "Are we trying to time it to process strategically with the CoC NOFO? We may try to, but it never kind of works out that way, Jennifer. So we never really save our sanity when we're doing our time on. We try, basically to save you guys because we know there's a lot going on, but a lot of times it just doesn't work out that way.

Nili Soni: Yep. That is very true. So there is a question about compensation and Caroline, I'm going to turn it over to you. "Could you talk more about what kind of form of compensation is eligible? Is that a scholarship that can be used out of these funds? Or is it incentives or a salary?"

Caroline Crouse: Yeah. So I want to emphasize that the youth that are participating on the Youth Action Board and helping to develop the Coordinated Community Plan, helping to develop the application for the YHDP, that are helping to develop and implement projects from YHDP funding, are experts. They have expertise and lived experience. They have a good understanding of the youth helping systems and you should be paying them for their time and expertise. I know that someone has asked, if you can pay in other incentives. I would say that other incentives can be great, but you can't pay your rent with pizza. And it's a professional role that they are playing and we should respect them as professionals. I will say that a lot of communities and I know that funding is hard, right? It's hard to say ... It's easy for me to say you should pay them and

it's a lot harder to figure out where that funding is going to come from, and I understand that.

In terms of, especially once you get the YHDP funding, that is where you have funds available, that you can dedicate specifically to the youth helping you develop the Youth Homelessness System and use the funds that are under the YHDP grant. So a lot of communities in this round especially have been using their planning funds to pay youth to do that work and we really encourage that. There are other opportunities to have professional development for the youth. That's definitely helpful, or even probably just necessary to make sure that they have an understanding of the CoC process, general understanding of federal funding, data, things like that, that are professional opportunities that they can use going on, but we really do encourage you to compensate them for their time in the same way that you would compensate other individuals that are working on these roles.

Nili Soni:

Yep. Thank you. And "So will this, the webinar be available on your website?" Yes, the webinar will be posted on HUD.gov. The links have been shared earlier where the YHDP NOFO is. So we will be posting more information there pretty soon, and we'll also post the webinar that will be held tomorrow. After that, we will also include the webinar chat as a list of transcript from this. There's a question about, "How many times can a YHDP grant be renewed or continued before you have to apply for a new one?" Going to turn it over to Caroline.

Caroline Crouse:

Sure. So I'm hoping I'm not going too in the weeds on this. So there isn't a limit to the number of times the YHDP project can be renewed. I will say that, within the last, for the 2021 CoC competition, and it's repeated in the 2022 appropriations' language, YHDP projects are treated differently than regular CoC projects. So YHDP projects are allowed to be replaced or renewed by the CoC non-competitively, which is pretty awesome, right? So you can either go through a renewal process or replacement process. That replacement process is a really good opportunity for communities to make any changes that they may have learned over the first two years.

Say, they realized they need to tweak their project, or they want to take advantage of some of the special YHDP activities that are available under Appendix A. So that's an opportunity for them to do that. So you can keep renewing. All of that is subject to Congress supplying funding and Congress saying we can spend the funding they appropriate to us on that. I will say for the last couple of appropriations, they have indicated that they will do that, but we can't speak about future appropriation opportunities.

Nili Soni:

Okay. To Caroline, can you also answer a question about the initial term of the project applications? "Is it between 24 to 30 months? Is there some startup funds and is that startup funds part of the initial YHDP funds that is awarded?"

Caroline Crouse:

Really good question. So essentially, up until this NOFO, all YHDP projects with the exception of planning projects were 24 months. We are allowing

communities to say that, instead of having a 24 month initial period for that YHDP grant, that they can have up to 30 months. That it will be the same way that you're budgeting, whether it's a 24 month project or a 30 month project, in terms of how you distribute your YHDP project. The clock, the operating start date for that project will just start on one day and end 30 months later, instead of starting and then ending 24 months later. So there isn't special funding for that startup period. It's all included in total grant funds that you'll be spending.

Nili Soni:

Great, thank you. Let me see if I am missing any questions. Okay. Oh, okay. So there's a question about, "What is the deadline to apply to the NOFO?" So NOFO is closing on June 28th, so it's a 90 day. So as I said, we will be holding another webinar tomorrow and then we will also be posting FAQs and additional resources. So please check the website out for previous rounds and also just some work around CCPs too, so that will help you.

Okay. So there is a question again, related to Tribes. "Will the tribe need to be part of the CoC geographic area by April 7th? Because that's when the CoC registration closes? So is there a CoC resolution, the travel resolution that has to be completed by then?" And I'm going to turn it over to Caroline. "Or is it by June 28th?"

Caroline Crouse:

That's a really good question. So there are a couple of things to think about for the Tribal Inclusion. So if you are going to have the Tribal Area included as part of the YHDP community, you would need to have that be indicated in the registration process that ends on April 7th, including the Tribal Resolution. I do want to flag that there are a couple different ways that Tribes can be involved in the CoC process. And once again, we're go into that in depth during the webinar tomorrow, but Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities can also be recipients of YHDP projects, and that actually won't come around until next year. And so there's a lot of time to continue that collaboration with Tribes that may be in the geography of the CoC and plenty of opportunities there to work on those partnerships, so that they would be ready to apply for projects next year.

I will also say, and again, we know that is a very quick deadline that's coming up and we know that may not work for a lot of CoCs. So just as a reminder, there is another round of YHDP coming. We were appropriated funds on FY 22, and that does allow for us to award funds to Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities, and Tribes can also be eligible to be designated as YHDP community and that ... Well under the language that we got from the appropriations, they're still eligible. So keep in mind that this is not like a one bite at the apple thing. We're encouraging long term partnerships. We know it's a growing, an experience that we are trying to be really mindful about what that looks like and making sure that, understanding that there's a lot of opportunity going forward, not just this one deadline that's coming pretty quick.

Nili Soni:

Thanks, Caroline. There's a question and if you can actually answer this question too, it's about the need assessments. "So would the lack of need assessments in

the past five years, make an application less, given the short timeframe for the CCP to be completed?" I'm not sure Caroline, if you're speaking. You're on mute.

Caroline Crouse: Oh, sure. Sorry. So there is a Needs Assessment question in the rating factors and it does ask that it be in the most recent five years. So if it's not in the most recent five years, that probably will ... You should address that in your application. And the short timeframe of the CCP, I think the reason I'm pausing on the question is that the CCP is created after you are designated as a YHDP community.

Nili Soni: Okay.

Caroline Crouse: So in order to be designated as a YHDP community, all you need do is look at the notice of funding opportunity, and we will put the link in there again. But that has rating factors that you just address the questions in those rating factors and we will review those and then award communities as YHDP communities. And once that award is announced, that's when the selected communities will do their Coordinated Community Plan, which will do a deeper dive into a Needs Assessment as part of their Coordinated Community Plan. So once you are at the CCP stage, you're not in a competition anymore. You've already been selected as a YHDP community.

Nili Soni: Thank you. Let me see if there are any additional questions. I am not seeing any additional questions. Does anyone have seen any questions that I'm missing? Oh, sorry. I did see that on another additional question regarding Tribes. So Caroline, this is back to you is, "So if a CoC during the registration answers no for collaborating with a Tribe, does that exclude the CoC from applying for YHDP?"

Caroline Crouse: The answer to that is most likely, no. We don't require that you'd be working with Tribes, especially there are some CoCs that may not have ... I mean, most people have Tribal Organizations in their area, but it's not a requirement. I will say that, if you have already been awarded a YHDP, you can't apply for a Tribal Area as a new area for a YHDP in your CoC if that partnership hasn't been identified in the registration process. So most likely, no. There's no requirement that you partner with Tribes. We obviously really encourage it, but just know that the same requirement still applies, that if you have already applied for your geography as a YHDP, we will not award a new YHDP project or a new YHDP to the same geography that's already been awarded before.

Nili Soni: Yep. Thanks, Caroline. I do not see any additional comments. Oh, actually I did see something. So I think someone just asked again about the Needs Assessment. Someone said they needed additional information. "We were thinking that we need to coordinate a Needs Assessment before being eligible or competitive for the YHDP grant." So that's a question. So they're finding ... I think they need maybe additional information about the Needs Assessment, Caroline.

Caroline Crouse: Yeah. So there is a rating factor that talks about the most recent Needs Assessment. I'm not offhand sure which rating factor that is, but I can take a look. So that is part of the Notice of Funding opportunity, the rating factor criteria, and you should talk about it in your responses. So that will be taken into account when we determine which applications are selected to be YHDP community is for this round. There is then a subsequent more deeper dive Needs Assessment that happens after the YHDP community selection. So there are kind of two. So certainly make sure that you're looking at those rating factor criteria. And if there are steps you need to take in order to have a better response to that, I would encourage you to take them.

Nili Soni: All right. "Does the project need to cover entire CoC area, or can it serve a specific geography area within the CoC?" Caroline and Ebony, either one of you?

Ebony Rankin: So as far as your application, your YHDP NOFO application, you can designate a specific geographic area within the CoC on the application, and that means the funding will go to that specific geographic area. You can decide to apply. The Collaborative Applicant can decide to apply for the NOFO under the entire CoC. Then those funds can be used within the entire CoC. So not necessarily by project, but it's by the Collaborative Applicant, and whether you considered a selected community or not.

Nili Soni: Okay. Thanks Ebony. "Can you apply for ..." And this is a question for Sid. "Can you apply for projects before getting your CCP approved?"

Sidhartha Nilak...: All right. You can only apply for a Planning Project before your CCP is approved. So once your CCP is approved, you can apply for all Non Planning Projects, but prior to CCP approval, it can only be a Planning Project.

Nili Soni: OK. "Is there an extension to the CCP project? Like if you're not able to finish it with into six months' timeframe, can CCP be extended? And if yes, then how long could it be extended?" So, Caroline?

Caroline Crouse: Yep. CCPs, you can request an extension for up to three months, if you need that extra time. One of the reasons we have a shorter timeframe for the CCP is that we do also need to have all of your project applications in by July 1, 2023. So we want to make sure there's plenty of time, after the CCP is approved, that you'll have time to create those projects and apply for them, but you can ask for an extension for up to three months.

Nili Soni: Yeah. And I just want to stress that, we also have to obligate these fundings by September 30th, 2023. So that is the timeline that we actually always run and that's just something that we ... It's a hard deadline that we cannot change. I also want to stress to more, the webinar here is going to be from 3:00 to 4:00 PM Eastern. Links have been posted and shared. So I encourage each one of you to join, if possible. If not, then we will be posting the webinar as the list of chat recordings on our HUD.gov website. Encourage you to read all the resources

when you're applying for YHDP application. And we are super excited and cannot wait to read all your applications, so looking forward to working with each one of you.

Any additional questions before we end the call? All right, thank you so much. Thanks to the presenters. Thanks to Deputy Assistant Secretary Jemine Bryon, and thanks to all of you for being available here today to ask these wonderful questions. And we are really, really looking forward to working with each of you, so excited. Thank you.

Chris:

That concludes our conference. Thanks to the Event Services. You may now disconnect.